

Gargi Kand
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To
All Members of Instructional Quality Commission
California Department Of Education, Sacramento, CA.

SUB: Request To #1. Remove Word Patriarchy From Your Recent 6th Grade Framework Line 894 AND #2. Add Women's Contributions to 6th Grade Framework After Line 895 and Before Line 896. (History And Social Sciences)

Hello,
My name is Gargi Kand, I am a 12th grader in Lynbrook High School, Cupertino in CA.

More than two thousand years ago, there lived a woman sage in India named Gargi, who was well versed in the Vedas, the oldest known Hindu scriptures. She debated the most renowned scholars of her time and was awarded the title “Brahmavadini” - the beholder of the highest knowledge. Gargi’s debates were so sublime and powerful that they have been captured in the Vedas themselves.

My parents named me after the great debater Gargi to belong to this culture of Rishikas (or women scholars). We Hindus have a tradition of female sages which is unparalleled in any other religion. Rig Veda, the oldest sacred text itself mentions thirty Rishikas - female sages as composers of our sacred texts. But our textbooks not only ignore the contributions of Hindu women and present us Hindus as overtly patriarchal when compared to other societies especially Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

One 6th grade textbook says “Only men could go to school or become priests.” The evidence of Rishikas like Gargi, Maitreyi, Vagambrini and many others should at least help us correct this error. But I see that in the latest framework, Hinduism is singled out and labelled ‘patriarchal,’ which I consider completely unjust.

According to Californian Law, Education Code Section 51501 “The state board and any governing board **shall not adopt** any textbooks **or other instructional materials** for use in the public schools **that contain any matter reflecting adversely upon persons** on the basis of race or **ethnicity, gender, religion**, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation”

I urge you to

1. Remove Word Patriarchy From 6th Grade Framework Line 894
2. Add Women's Contributions to 6th Grade Framework After Line 895 and Before Line 896.

Thank you and Please make these necessary changes!
Gargi Kand